

City of Memphis



TENNESSEE

JIM STRICKLAND
MAYOR

December 8, 2016

Ambassador Paul W. Jones
The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Warsaw
Aleje Ujazdowskie 29/32
00-540 Warsaw, Poland

Re: Public Diplomacy Grants Program 2017 – Application by the Polish American Society in Memphis

Dear Ambassador Jones,

On behalf of the City of Memphis, I extend my support wholeheartedly for the application being submitted by the Polish American Society in Memphis under the Public Diplomacy Grants Program 2017. I believe the goals set out for "Memphis Festival in Poland," still in the planning stages for Sopot, Poland in June 2017, fit the requisite criteria of the public diplomacy grant.

In 2015, the Memphis in May International Festival saluted Poland. At this time, the idea of organizing a Memphis music and education event in Poland was born. Mr. Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of Poland, was first to announce it publicly when visiting Memphis during the 2015 Festival, which is how the Polish-American Society of Memphis and the Polish Embassy in the U.S. became the main sponsors and coordinators of the project.

Sopot, Poland, is an ideal location for the festival, as the city is very much like Memphis, Tennessee — both are renowned music destinations for music lovers world-wide. "Memphis Festival in Poland" would promote diversity — giving the people of Poland the opportunity to experience Memphis culture, learn its history of blues and rock 'n' roll, and hear live performances. Americans attending the festival would have the opportunity to see and experience the culture of Poland for themselves. The festival would also benefit Sopot economically.

A dedicated group of festival promoters have planned a special event in Sopot, Poland which will promote Polish-U.S. Relations and diversity, reinforce their shared values, and strengthen economic prosperity in the city. For these reasons, I strongly support their proposal, and greatly appreciate your consideration for this grant.

Sincerely,

Jim Strickland
Mayor